

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: HOMELAND CITIZENSHIP PROVISIO MARS SAG'S BLACK
HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME

REF: (A) CAPE TOWN 507, (B) CAPE TOWN A-84 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING UP ON EARLIER PROMISES, SAG HAS
ANNOUNCED DETAILS OF NEW POLICY BY WHICH AFRICANS MAY BUILD
OR BUY OWN HOMES IN AFRICAN TOWNSHIPS OF "WHITE" URBAN AREAS
WITH RIGHT TO 30-YEAR LEASEHOLD. AS EXPECTED, PLAN DOES NOT
ALLOW FOR OUTRIGHT OWNERSHIP OF LAND UNDER RESIDENCES. BLACK
REACTION TO POLICY HAS BEEN BITTER BECAUSE OF KICKER ATTACHED
BY SAG TO EFFECT THAT ONLY AFRICANS WHO HAVE OR APPLY FOR
CITIZENSHIP IN HOMELANDS WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
NEW SCHEME. SITUATION ILLUSTRATIVE OF HOW NOMINALLY
ENCOURAGING MOVE IS FOULED BY SAG INSISTENCE ON PUSHING
POLICY OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.

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1. SECRETARY (HIGHEST RANKING CIVIL SERVANT) OF DEPT BANTU

ADMINISTRATION VAN ONSELEN TOLD ALL-WHITE INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATORS OF NON-EUROPEAN AFFAIRS MEETING IN BLOEMFONTEIN OCT 29 THAT GOVERNMENT NOW READY TO LAUNCH PROMISED PLAN (REF A) TO ALLOW URBAN AFRICANS TO BUILD AND BUY HOMES IN TOWNSHIPS SET ASIDE FOR THEM IN "WHITE" AREAS. PLAN, WHICH FOR MOST PART IS RETURN TO PRE-1967 STATUS QUO, WILL ALLOW URBAN AFRICANS RIGHT OF OCCUPATION FOR 30 YEARS WHICH UPON EXPIRY MAY BE EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER THIRTY. AFRICANS MAY PURCHASE ALREADY BUILT HOMES WITH LOAN FROM EMPLOYERS OR FROM BANTU AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION BOARDS, IF PUBLIC FUNDS PERMIT, OR MAY BUILD OWN HOMES. HOMEOWNER MAY SELL TO ANOTHER AFRICAN IF HE WISHES AND IF NEW BUYER MEETS ESTABLISHED PURCHASER CRITERIA. WHILE MORGAGES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED, NOTARIAL BONDS OVER RIGHT OF OCCUPATION AND REMOVABLE PROPERTY ARE ALLOWABLE WITH SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF DEPT BANTU AFFAIRS.

2. MOST OF VAN ONSELEN'S PRESENTATION FAIRLY EXPECTABLE IN LIGHT OF EARLIER SAG STATEMENTS ON ISSUE. KICKER TO PLAN, CONFIRMED BY VAN ONSELEN, WHICH HAS RAISED FUROR AND PROMPTED CHORUS OF "I TOLD YOU SO'S" FROM AFRICAN LEADERS IS REQUIREMENT THAT "EVERY BANTU WHO WISHES TO TAKE PART IN THIS SCHEME WILL BE REQUIRED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF WITH HIS APPROPRIATE HOMELAND... AND PRODUCE A CERTIFICATE OF HOMELAND CITIZENSHIP."

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ONLY 1.4 MILLION AFRICANS HAVE TAKEN OUT HOMELAND CITIZENSHIP DOCUMENTS SINCE PASSAGE OF BANTU CITIZENSHIP ACT OF 1970. URBAN AFRICANS IN PARTICULAR HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES FORMALLY WITH SPECIFIC HOMELANDS. IN PART, THIS PROBABLY DUE TO APATHY. BUT FOR MANY, IDEOLOGICAL OPPOSITION TO "BANTUSTANIZATION" AS WELL AS LURKING FEARS THAT ONCE ONE BECOMES A HOMELAND CITIZEN THE POSSIBILITY OF "DEPORTATION" IS OPENED, HAVE KEPT THEM FROM SEEKING CITIZENSHIP DOCUMENTS.

4. REACTION OF URBAN AFRICAN LEADERS AND ARTICULATE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY HAS BEEN ONE OF BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT. STRONG SUSPICIONS OF GOVERNMENT MOTIVES FIRST VOICED SIX MONTHS AGO WHEN MINISTER M.C. BOTHA ENVISAGED PLAN IN PARLIAMENT (REF B) HAVE, IN THEIR VIEW, BEEN CONFIRMED. T.J. MAKHAYA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNOFFICIAL "MAYOR" OF SOWETO, TOLD PRESS THAT "IF IT COMES TO CITIZENSHIP, WE WANT TO BE SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS." LENNOX MLONZI, SOWETO POLITICAL LEADER, ADDED THAT "WE WOULD RATHER HAVE NO CONCESSIONS THAN BE TIED TO HOMELANDS."

5. PARTICULARLY UPSET BY NEW POLICY ARE HOMELAND LEADERS. GOVERNMENT ALLEGING THAT PLAN EXPRESSIVE OF HOMELAND LEADERS WISHES AS STATED AT JANUARY MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER

VORSTER. GAZANKULU CHIEF MINISTER NTSANWISI EMPHATICALLY DENIED THIS AND STATED THAT GOVERNMENT'S PLAN WITH HOMELAND CITIZENSHIP STIPULATION IS "CONTRADICTION" OF WHAT HE AND OTHER HOMELAND LEADERS WANTED.

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6. COMMENT: SAG MAKING HOMELAND CITIZENSHIP PREEQUISITE FOR HOMEOWNERSHIP CONSONANT WITH BASIC CONTENTIION OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT THAT AFRICANS, NO MATTER HOW LONG THEY MAY RESIDE IN URBAN AREAS, ARE ONLY "TEMPORARY SOJOURNERS" FROM BLACK HOMELANDS. SITUATION ALL THE MORE TRAGIC IN THAT AT LEAST SOME SAG OFFICIALS HAVE APPARENTLY AWAKENED TO NEEDS OF URBAN AFRICANS AND SEEM WILLING TO AMELIORATE HARSH LIVING CONDITIONS. THIS SEEMINGLY CONFIRMED BY MINISTER BOTHA WHO TOLD BLOEMFONTEIN CONGRESS THAT HIS DEPT CONSIDERING WAYS OF LIMITING IRRITATING ASPECTS OF INFLUX CONTROL REGULATIONS AND SAME DAY'S PLEA BY DEPUTY MINISTER PUNT JANSEN TO BUILDERS ASSOCIATION TO COME UP WITH BETTER HOUSING PLANS FOR URBAN BLACKS. DESPITE GOOD INTENTIONS, GOVERNMENT STILL FIRMLY WEDDED TO SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES AND BLACK SUSPICIONS AND BITTERNESS MOST LIKELY TO GROW AS PROMISED CONCESSIONS FALL SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS AND ARE CONFINED BY IDEOLOGICAL STRING-TIERS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
BOWDLER

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